

MINUTES  
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2018  
WOOD COUNTY RIVER BLOCK - AUDITORIUM, 111 W. JACKSON ST., WISCONSIN RAPIDS

Members Present: Kenneth Curry, Mark Holbrook, Robert Ashbeck, Dave Lafontaine, Bill Leichtnam and Harvey Petersen.

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Jeff Brewbaker  
Land & Water Conservation Staff: Shane Wucherpennig, Tracy Arnold, Lori Ruess  
UW Extension Staff: Jason Hausler, Nancy Turyk, Chris Viau

Others Present: Dist. #12 Supervisor Douglas Machon, Dist. #15 Supervisor Bill Clendenning, Dist. #14 Supervisor Dennis Polach, Peter Kastenholz, Corporation Counsel, Sue Kunferman, Health Department Director, Nancy Eggleston, Environmental Health Supervisor, Marla Cummings, Finance Director.

1. **Call to Order.** Chairperson Curry called the CEED meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
2. **Public Comment.** None
3. **Review Correspondence.** None
4. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda included the following Items: 1) minutes of the July 5, 2018 and July 18, 2018 CEED meetings, 2) bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension and 3) staff activity reports from Jason Grueneberg, Adam DeKleyn, Justin Conner, Jeff Brewbaker, Stevana Skinner, Kim Keech, Victoria Wilson, Shane Wucherpennig, Tracy Arnold, Adam Groshek, Emily Salvinski, Lori Ruess, Alex Delaney, Matt Lippert, Jodi Friday, Chris Viau, Laura Huber, Nancy Turyk, Jackie Carattini, and Jeremy Erickson.
  - A. Minutes of July 5, 2018. No additions or corrections needed.
  - B. Minutes of July 18, 2018. No additions or corrections needed.
  - C. Department Bills. No additions or corrections needed – Bill Leichtnam reminded UWEX to include “Nature of Claim” explanations for all vouchers.
  - D. Staff Activity Reports. No additions or corrections needed.

*Motion by Bill Leichtnam to approve and accept the July 5, 2018 and July 18, 2018 CEED minutes, bills from Planning & Zoning, Land & Water Conservation and UW Extension, and staff activity reports as presented. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.*

5. **Risk and Injury Report.** None.
6. **Discuss and set date for special CEED meeting in late August to approve department budgets.** Following discussion, Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., was the date set for the special CEED meeting to approve budgets. The meeting will be held in Room 115 of the Wood County Courthouse.
7. **Health Department Water Presentation – Sue Kunferman & Nancy Eggleston.** Nancy Eggleston and Sue Kunferman gave a presentation on Agricultural Concerns and Public Health Authority. They shared information on the potential public health impacts of poor air quality, and ground and/or surface water contamination and reviewed the authority granted to the Health Department to address human health hazards by Wisconsin Chapter 254 and the Wood County Public Health Ordinance. They also reviewed the roles of state and local Health Departments.

Following the presentation, Sue Kunferman updated the committee on the water testing results from the 104 wells that were tested in Armenia and Wood County. Juneau County Board provided \$20,000 for testing of nitrates and possible nitrate testing equipment which would allow counties to test for nitrates at a reduced rate. There is a cost to be certified for nitrate testing too. It is not their intent to compete with local labs, but to offer a reduced rate for water testing in the corridor of concern.

Armenia Growers Coalition wants to help supply clean, safe water to landowners who have a well that tested high in nitrate levels. They have offered to provide bottled water and a treatment system along with filters and maintenance on the system for one year.

Lengthy discussion followed with several committee members expressing concerns. It was the consensus of the committee that the Health Department, Land & Water Conservation, UWEX and Planning and Zoning start providing more education on safe drinking water, increase awareness of potential health impacts of surface and groundwater contamination, and encourage landowners throughout the county to periodically test their private wells.

## 8. Land & Water Conservation Department.

**A. Discuss and possible action on CEED's roles and responsibilities with the groundwater discussions.** Chairperson Curry share; the Groundwater Committee was originally formed by the Legislative Committee and a motion was made in the past by the CEED not to fund any per diem or staff time for the Groundwater Committee meetings. He presented the question, does the CEED want to leave the committee "as is" or take concerted effort to bring the committee back to the CEED?

Supervisor LaFontaine commented that the problem with the current groundwater committee is they aren't working on specific goals and only the people on the committee are getting educated. There is a need to educate the public.

Shane Wucherpfennig agreed that it would be of great value to the group if they took on educating the public. Someone needs to take the lead.

Supervisor Ashbeck added that Marshfield & Milladore have volunteers that do groundwater education. The southern portion of the county is missing that and needs more people to volunteer for groundwater education. Lengthy discussion followed.

*Motion by Bill Leichtnam to have the Wood County Citizen's Groundwater Committee report to the Wood County Board & suggest policy revision. Second by Mark Holbrook.*

*Bill Leichtnam amended his motion to:*

*Request the County Board Chair to form an ad hoc committee composed of members of each committee, appointed by the Chair, to bring policy and revision to the County Board as a whole. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.*

Final recommendations that come from the ad hoc committee would go to the County Board, but members from their standing committee would bring information back to their committee.

Chairman Curry will talk to County Board Chairman Machon about forming the ad hoc committee and report back to the CEED in September.

The committee agreed on the importance of developing programs to educate the public on groundwater and encouraging landowners throughout the county to have their well water tested periodically.

Supervisor Lafontaine suggested including educational material with future tax bill mailings.

- B. Discuss and take action on payment associated with a recent non-metallic mining reclamation hearing.** Wucherpennig reported that the J. Arnold versus Wood County hearing has concluded in terms of witnesses. The hearing took three nine-hour days and Corporation Counsel and Land & Water Conservation have received the first invoice for some of the hearing expenses. Wucherpennig explained that the Land & Water Conservation Department doesn't have money in their budget to cover these unanticipated expenses. Peter Kastenholz has offered to take the first invoice (over \$2,000) to his oversight committee for approval to pay out of the Corporation Counsel budget.
- C. Update on LCC Supervisor Training (CEED) held in Merrill. – Ashbeck Bob** Ashbeck reported briefly on the LCC Supervisor Training he attended in Merrill. He gave each committee member a copy of the WI Land + Water Land Conservation Committee Supervisors Handbook that he picked up at the training.
- D. Update on fall CEED tour.** The fall CEED tour is scheduled for Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Tracy Arnold is working on setting up the tour and has requested suggestions for tour stops from the UWEX, Planning & Zoning and Land Water Conservation Departments. Stops have yet to be finalized, but will be by the end of the week.
- E. Report on Non-ferrous Mining Ordinance – possible action.** Adam DeKleyn reported Taylor County is not going to update or amend their existing ordinance. Land & Water Conservation Department and Planning & Zoning plan to meet in the near future to finish up the draft of the Wood County Non-ferrous Mining Ordinance.

## 9. Economic Development

- A. **Wood County ATV Trail committee update.** Jason Grueneberg reported the Wood County ATV Trail committee has been meeting on a monthly basis, sometimes twice a month. He updated the committee on several ATV route connections via roads/trails to surrounding counties that they are working on. He has been in contact with officials from connecting towns and villages working out some safety concerns with bridges and some roads that are not open to ATV's. He also mentioned possible trailheads and stated that Sandy Huber from Parks and Forestry is checking on grant possibilities. A committee member expressed the importance of trailhead amenities. Another stated he has attended two of the ATV meetings and the only problem he has is the focus is on one recreational activity, as opposed to multiple recreational activities. It was stated that the County needs to invest in the future and needs to look at this as a true economic development and look at future investment in trails.

10. **Private Sewage.** Nothing to report.

11. **County Surveyor.** Nothing to report.

12. **Planning.**

- A. **Consider resolution amending the Wisconsin Rapids Sewer Service Area Plan 2030, with changes of the boundary in the Village of Biron.** Adam DeKleyn had exhibits at the front of the meeting room to guide in his discussion of a request from the Village of Biron to amend the Wisconsin Rapids Sewer Service Area (SSA). Supplemental exhibits were also included in the packet with his staff report. Adam explained SSA planning is a process designed to anticipate a

community's future needs for wastewater treatment. The plan identifies the most cost-efficient and environmentally sound 20-yr sewage growth boundaries. The primary reason for the amendment to the Wisconsin Rapids SSA plan is to add ½ mile of Huffman Road right-of-way to the SSA so sanitary sewer can be extended from the Biron Business Park north to the future Bridgewater Development and neighboring areas. Additionally, three other sites with existing residences are proposed to be added to the SSA. In total, the amendment proposed the addition of 8.58 acres to the SSA and removal of an area of equal size. Adam explained existing wastewater treatment facilities have adequate capacity to treat additional flows. The proposed changes are consistent with the Wood County Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use map. All amendment procedures have been followed. Adam recommended the committee approve the Village of Biron's amendment request. Discussion followed.

*Motion by Dave LaFontaine to approve the resolution amending the Wisconsin Rapids SSA plan adding 8.58 acres and removing equal acres. Second by Kenneth Curry. Motion carried unanimously.*

### 13. UW Extension.

- A. **Staffing and Office Updates.** Jason Hausler reported:  
The new office furniture has been installed and staff is very happy with it.  
Jeremy Erickson resigned as Horticulture Educator. Jason will be looking at options for posting and refilling the position.  
Jodi Friday will be acting FoodWise Coordinator through the end of the year.  
The 2019 UWEX budgets were submitted to the Finance Department by the August 13<sup>th</sup> deadline and UWEX met the budget parameters.  
The Wood County Clean Sweep will be held Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to Noon at the Marshfield Fairgrounds (brochures were handed out).  
Nancy Turyk is working with Chair Mahon on developing possible strategies for the development of a county strategic plan.
- B. **2019 Contract Update.** Jason updated the committee on the 2019 contract process. One change this year is the State would like all contracts signed and in their office by the end of 2018. He will bring the proposed contract to the next meeting and will have the contract ready for signatures at the December meeting.
- C. **Presentation-Chris Viau - 4-H Youth Development Educator.** Chris Viau gave a presentation on Leadership Washington Focus. This is a summer program in Washington that teaches middle school students (grades 5, 6, & 7) about citizenship and government. Participants practiced inter-personal communication skills through group discussions and public speaking and worked with others to create and accomplish goals. They also had the opportunity to participate in the Nightview and view many of D.C's monuments and memorials at night. 31 youth from 15 counties participated including 4 youth from Wood County.
- D. **Clean Sweep Grant Application – Resolution.** Jason presented a resolution to authorize the submittal of a state grant application and the subsequent appropriation of County funds and outside donations for the 2019 Agricultural and Household Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep Program. County cost-share - \$10,000 and anticipated DATCP State Grant - \$ 9,000. The grant application is due in September.

*Motion by Bill Leichnetz to approve the resolution to authorize the submittal of a state grant application and the Clean Sweep funding. Second by Mark Holbrook. Motion carried unanimously.*

### 14. Schedule Next Regular Committee Meeting.

The next regular CEED meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Wood County Courthouse in Room 115.

### 15. Agenda items for next meeting.

- A. Update on Groundwater Ad-Hoc Committee – Curry
- B. Groundwater presentation by Kathy Lotzer, Marshfield Groundwater Guardians
- C. Proposed 2019 UWEX Contract.
- D. National Night Out community-building campaign - Holbrook

**16. Schedule any additional meetings if necessary.** A special CEED meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the Wood County Courthouse in Room 115.

**17. Adjourn.**

*Chairperson Kenneth Curry declared the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Holbrook, Secretary  
Minutes by Lori Ruess, Land & Water Conservation Department  
Review for submittal to County Board by Mark Holbrook (approved on August 27, 2018 at 9:13 a.m.)